

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

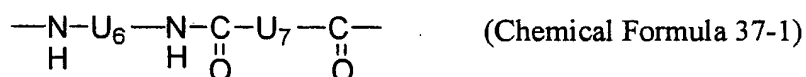
Page 1: After the title, insert:

--This is a 371 national phase application of PCT/JP2003/013278 filed 16 October 2003, claiming priority to Japanese Application No. 2002-303289 and No. 2002-303290, both filed 17 October 2002, and No. 2002-312837 and No. 2002-313025, both filed 28 October 2002, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

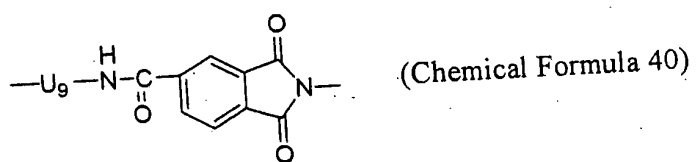
Page 2: Replace the second full paragraph starting on line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

One example thereof is a membrane containing polysulfone having a sulfonate group (see, for example, F. Lufrano and three other authors, "Sulfonated Polysulfone as Promising Membranes for Polymer Electrolyte Fuel Cells" Journal of Applied Polymer Science (U.S.A.), John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2000, Vol. 77, ~~pp. 1250-1257~~ pp. 1250-1256). Polysulfone is suitable as a raw material of solid polymer electrolyte membranes because it is superior in processability; for example, it has a high heat resistance and it is soluble in organic solvents. A sulfonic acid group is usually introduced into polysulfone by use of a sulfonating agent such as concentrated sulfuric acid and sulfuric anhydride. It is however difficult to control sulfonation reactions by this method. In some cases, therefore, it is impossible to adjust the degree of sulfonation to a desired degree or problems such as gelation are caused by nonuniform sulfonation or side reactions.

Page 60: Replace the Chemical Formula 37-1 with the following amended formula 37-1:



Page 61: Replace the Chemical Formula 40 with the following amended Chemical Formula 40:



Page 63: Replace the Chemical Formula 44 with the following amended Chemical Formula 44:

